

Introduction to Chapter 8-38 – Consolidation of public schools

Hawaii Administrative Rules

Criteria for a school consolidation study

- 1/3 or more of the sq ft requires replacement or improvements to meet prescribed standards;
- 1/3 or more of the available classrooms are in excess of the teaching station and educational program needs of the school; or
- Enrollment decline and staff reductions have or will reduce the capability of the school to provide the range of educational opportunities offered at adjoining schools; provided the adjoining schools can accommodate relocated students without substantial capital improvement expenditures for additional facilities.

Study elements

- Advantages/disadvantages of consolidation in respect to efficient school administration and providing equal educational opportunity.
- Adequacy of facilities, programs, transportation, etc. at affected schools.
- Social impact on children, schools, community, adults involved in consolidation.
- Net financial savings possible from consolidation.
- Future population, demographic, and enrollment changes that may affect the need for schools.
- Alternative uses of facilities, including early childhood education programs and charter school.
- Timetable

Study Steps

- CAS appoints a task force and its chair
- CAS reports to the Sup't on composition of task force and conditions requiring a study
- Sup't reports this to BOE
- Task force reports its findings to CAS
- CAS directs task force to hold a public hearing
- Task force submits to CAS a summary of the public hearing and a recommendation within 30 days of the public hearing
- CAS sends to Sup't the task force final report and the CAS recommendation, within 15 days of receiving the task force report.
- Sup't sends to BOE the task force report, the CAS recommendation, and the Sup't's recommendation within 15 days of receiving the CAS report
- BOE conducts "such proceedings as it deems appropriate to reach a decision..."